#### SELECTIONS

FROM THE

# VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND RÁJPÚTÁNA.

Received up to 4th November, 1889.

#### POLITICAL AND NATIVE STATES.

The Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 13th October, received

Natives advised to take a lesson from the strike of the strike of the dock labourers in the London dock labourers.

London, and hopes that natives will

London, and hopes that natives will take a lesson from it. In spite of the existence of a Parliament and a strong public opinion in England, the dock labourers were unable to get their grievances redressed until they combined together and struck work in a body. Similarly, the cultivators in this country, who find it difficult to keep the wolf from the door, can expect no improvement in their condition until they themselves, or their sympathizers on their behalf, make a point of ventilating their grievances. not necessary that they should set fire to Government House or declare war against the European officials. have only to maintain an agitation. The great and just British nation is never displeased with an agitation carried on in a legal and constitutional way. The Australian colonists contributed five lakhs of rupees for the support of the London dock labourers during the strike. Mr. Gladstone, Lord Ripon. Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Bradlaugh, and even the members of

Circulation, 300 copies.

the Royal Family made some contributions. Indeed, they received more money than they needed, and there was a surplus in the fund at the end of the strike. The Americans, who spend a great deal of money every year on the spread of education in this country, are sure to help the culivators and other poor classes in getting their grievances redressed.

Circulation, 250 copies. The Naiyar-i-Azam (Moradabad), of the 28th October,

Release of convicts in highly approves of the recommendahonour of Prince Albert tion of the Pioneer for the release of
Victor's visit.

the Burmese convicts, who have not
been guilty of any misbehaviour since their imprisonment in
the jails, in honour of Prince Albert Victor's visit to Burma,
and urges that the same indulgence should be shown to the
convicts in India.

Circulation, 415 copies. The Hindustan (Kalakankar), of the 1st November, referring to the Bill to provide for reform of the Indian Legislative Councils, prepared by Mr. Bradlaugh for submiscouncils.

Sion to Parliament, observes that Mr.

Bradlaugh has sent copies of the Bill to the various Congress Standing Committees and the Anglo-Indian and native newspapers for criticism. The natives will always remain thankful to him for such an important measure, and it is their earnest prayer that he may soon be restored to health.

The Hildl (Moradabad), of the 31st October, praises General Azamu-l-din Khan for the satisfactory management of the affairs of Ram-of Rampur.

Dur, and refers to the reforms introduced in his time. A telegraph office and a club under the name of Nawab's Club have been established at Rampur. The poor and the needy receive help from the state, and an increase has been made in the pensions of some relatives of the Nawab and in the salaries of the army and many civil officials. The revenue farmers and cultivators are happy and contented, and proper arrangements have been made for the dispensation of speedy and impartial justice. He takes great interest in the

encouragement of education and has even established an English school. The Musalmans and Hindus are regarded with an eye of equality, and the disabilities under which the latter laboured are being removed. It is almost needless to say that the General receives great help from his two colleagues in conducting the administration.

The Dabdaba-i-Qaisari (Bareilly), of the 26th October,

The quarrel between the Rája of Tehri and Surgeon Hanley at Bareilly.

on the authority of a local correspondent, condemns the account given by the Pioneer of the quarrel between the

Rija of Tehri and Surgeon Hanley at Bareilly as false and exaggerated. It has been alleged that Surgeon Hanley struck at the Rája's driver, but the Rája had no driver and was himself driving his carriage. The Rája did not abuse the Surgeon, nor did he send for any armed retainers from He had present six men with him, and was therefore in no need of additional assistance if he desired to retaliate upon the Surgeon. When the Raja received a lash with the whip on his hand, he asked the Surgeon his name, but the Surgeon refused to declare it. On this the Rája's mounted retainers stopped the Surgeon's carriage. The Surgeon then asked for a pencil and piece of paper. But as those things were not forthcoming, he went to the police-station and recorded his name there. No apology was offered by him. The Rája never drives rashly, nor has any complaint been made against him by any one. The Pioneer is an enemy to natives, but it is to be deeply regretted that the Oudh Akhbár should have published in its columns the Pioneer's version of the story without satisfying itself as to its truth. matter of satisfaction that the dispute between the Raja and the Surgeon has been amicably settled.

The alleged non-payment

of compensation to the native chiefs in Bundelkhand

for the lands taken from them for railway purposes.

The Akhbar-i- Alam (Meerut), of the 29th October, observes that with the spread of English edution in this country a love for the freedom of speech is growing in the minds of the people. They are there-

fore ready to criticize the proceedings of Government officials. Some native newspapers emphatically denounce the conduct of Circulation, 300 copies.

Circulation, 63 copies.

political officials in the Kashmír embroglio and accuse them of having forced the Mahárája to resign the administration against his will. A complaint has lately been made by the Inative states in Bundelkhand against the Political In April, 1886, the Rájas of Orchha, Datia, Agent. Samthar, &c., received letters from the Political Agent, in which they were desired to make over to the Indian Midland Railway Company the lands required by the company for railway purposes, but they were told that they would receive compensation from the company. wards they received another circular in which they were told that, as the line belonged to Government and their states would benefit by it, they were expected to supply lands and also timber and other materials free of charge. ingly no compensation has been paid to them. It is believed that the chiefs have resolved to refer the matter to the Government of India. The Chief of Orchha complains that undue official pressure was brought to bear on him to make over the lands to the company. It is difficult to foretell the result of the reference to the Government of India. But there can hardly be two opinions that Political Agents are not well advised in ill-treating loyal feudatory chiefs and alienating their hearts from Government.

Circulation, 415 copies.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 1st November, says Major Barr's proceed. that it appears from the news received from Gwalior that the state of things there is very unsatisfactory. Government desires to appoint an Englishman tutor to the young Mahárája; and the President of the Council has been reduced to a cypher, Major Barr, the Resident, having assumed the entire administration in his hands, to all practical intents and purposes. All classes of the people in the state are highly dissatisfied with the Major's proceedings. It will be remembered that he was formerly Superintendent of the Rewah state.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 240 copies. The Azad (Lucknow), of the 1st November, observes that
The Secretary of State's the object of Government in appointorders regarding the report ing the Public Service Commission
was to inquire into the alleged griev-

ances of natives in connection with their admission to the public service, and to redress those grievances which might be well-founded. But Government was by no means bound to sanction all the recommendations of the Commission. The Secretary of State has consented to the raising of the limit of age for the Civil Service examination to 23 years, and has also approved the proposed alterations in the maximum number of marks in some subjects. The change in the limit of age is a very important reform; and setting aside the other reforms which will be introduced in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission, that reform alone is worth more than the cost of the Commission. Government has been well-advised in not approving the recommendation of the Commission for the examination being also held in this country. Only the Bengalis, Parsis and Maharatta Brahmans who have made progress in English education are in favour of the recommendation. But the Muhammadans and other classes of the community are very backward, and the country is not yet prepared for competitive examinations.

the substance of the Government of Comments on the orders of the Government of India's orders in the case of the Praja India regarding the Praja Bandhu. Bandhu newspaper, and observes that the orders deserve more than a passing notice, as they foreshadow a change in the policy of Government towards the native press. No sane man can take exception to Tin Cauri Banarji's dismissal from Government service, as he fully deserved it for publishing a newspaper without obtaining permission from Government according to rule. But the same cannot be said of the proscription of the newspaper under the Customs Act and the Post-office Act, which is a new departure. The proscription is open to several objections. Tin Cauri Banarji can easily evade the orders of Government, if he likes to do so, by simply changing the name of the news-The interdiction will tend to give wide publicity to paper. the seditious articles which appeared in an unknown and

obscure newspaper. The Anglo-Indian newspapers, and after

them the native newspapers, are sure to publish translations of

the most objectionable passages in the articles. The Praja

The Hindustáni (Lucknow), of the 3rd November, gives

Circulation, 300 copies.

Bandhu will complain to the French Government against the orders of the Government of India, and that political party in France which is always opposed to England will represent the prohibition as a sign of the weak hold which the British Government has on the love of natives. The Novoye Vremya, which had already charged the British Government with a desire of annexing Kashmír, will make capital out of the proscription. The Government of India should have treated the writings of an unknown newspaper like the Praja Bandhu with silent contempt.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 3rd November, in commenting upon the same subject, observes that the editor had occasion to see two late numbers of the Praja Bandhu. They contained very seditious articles. The Hindustán has no sympathy with the ill-wishers of Government, which has bestowed many benefits on this country, and approves of Tin Cauri Banarji's dismissal. There are some European officials who are proprietors of newspapers, but none of them, except Mr. Phillips, has been taken to task by Government.

Circulation, 175 copies.

The Najmu-l-Hind (Moradabad), of the 23rd October, referring to the winter tours of Gov-The winter tours of Government officials. ernment officials, complains that the tours, far from bestowing any benefits on the people as they were intended to do, have become a great misfortune to them. The chaprasis and the private servants of the officials freely levy blackmail from landlords, cultivators and traders. men who have to supply provisions never receive the full price of their articles. If they do not comply with the illegal demands made on them, they are at once accused of having supplied adulterated and unwholesome articles and are brought into difficulties. The most conclusive proof of the extortion to which the traders are subjected, is to be found in the circumstance that they voluntarily take for sale their articles, even to small fairs and markets held many miles distant from their homes, while they never open their stalls at the camps of officials until they are constrained by the tabsilichaprasis to do so, and they even pay bribes to the chaprasis to secure exemp-

tion. The officials should put a stop to the evil with a high hand. As soon as an official is encamped at any place he should issue a proclamation to the effect that no man should supply anything to his camp until he has received the full price, and that all attempts at illegal extortion by his men and subordinates should be readily brought to his notice. Again, the winter tours of officials are also a source of unnecessary inconvenience and expense to the suitors. In the summonses issued in cases fixed for hearing in camp the names of places at which the parties should be present are, as a rule, omitted and the parties have to find out the camps in the best way they can. Sometimes the parties to a case find out the whereabouts of the officer's camp with great difficulty, but when they reach the place they find to their disgust that the camp has left the place. Every official should publish a programme of his tour and should make a point of adhering to it.

The Almora Akhbár, of the 28th October, says that the

The revision of settlement in the Kumaun Diviment in the Kumaun Division was made in 1815, and that the aggregate land revenue was then fixed

at Rs. 85,328. The assessments have been continuously increased at each revision of settlement, and at the last settlement, which was made in 1863-73, the figures were Rs. 2,49,370. The last settlement in Garhwál has already expired, and that in Kumaum will come to a close after a few years, and therefore the new settlement operations will shortly be commenced. The Almora Akhbar thinks that no further enhancement in the assessments in the division except in the Bhábar would be advisable, as the land has been exhausted owing to the scarcity of manure, and the population has greatly increased. There is a growing grain trade in the Bhábar, and the cultivators in that region greatly benefit by that trade. Even a large portion of the hill population go down to the Bhábar during the winter and there eke out a livelihood in one way or another. Akhbúr is glad to learn from a notification published in the Government Gazette of the 19th October that Mr. Roberts, a sympathetic officer, has been placed in charge of the Bhábar settlement, and urges that the revision of the settlement in Garhwal should be also entrusted to him.

Circulation, 76 co pies.

Circulation, 100 copies. The Nizamu-l-Mulk (Moradabad), of the 31st October, states that the proprietors of the Nizamu-l-Mulk and the Sitara-i-Hind of moradabad fined for publishing obscene advertisements for the sale of aphrodisiacs. each on the charge of publishing obscene

scene advertisements for the sale of aphrodisiacs. It would appear that Magistrates are of opinion that all advertisements for the sale of aphrodisiacs, even though written in very guarded language, are obsence. Hence newspapers should refrain from publishing such advertisements until the question as to their obscenity or otherwise has been settled by the High Court. The reason why such advertisements are largely published in vernacular newspapers is that aphrodisiacs are in great demand among natives.

Circulation, 175 copies. The Najmu-l-Hind (Moradabad), of the 23rd October,

The institution of criminal prosecutions by Government against newspapers for publishing obscene advertisements for the sale of aphrodisiacs, while Government does aphrodisiacs.

complains that native newspapers are readily prosecuted and fined for publishing obscene adaphrodisiacs, while Government does aphrodisiacs.

country of various articles made of India rubber which are calculated to encourage immorality among the people.

Circulation, 248 copies.

The Subodh Sindhú (Khandwa), of the 30th October, The sentence of death observes that the sentence of death passed on Tantia Bhil. passed on Tantia cannot be viewed with feelings of unmixed satisfaction, inasmuch as his conduct was characterized with courage, bravery, generosity and freedom from immorality. He is reported to have made presents to poor women on many occasions. Such redeeming features in his character were sure to win an indemnity for him from the old Maharatta rulers. About 50 years ago Nána Patwardhan of Amnapur was so much struck with the courage and activity of one Bitia Ramoshi, who used to commit robberies and dakatties in his territories that he acquitted him and gave him valuable presents on his promising not to commit any more The Sindhu does not mean that Tantia should not robberies. have been punished for his misdeeds. The British system of administration is different from the native system, and can admit of no criminal escaping punishment. It has been alleged that Tantia once sent a message to Sirdar Bahadur Ishri Prasad, through Ganpat, that, if he were granted an indemnity from punishment, he would voluntarily surrender himself and abandon his criminal career. Government could have accepted the offer without any difficulty.

The Nasim-i-Agra, of the 30th October, refers to the case

The alleged prevalence of bribery and corruption among Government servants.

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of a patwari in the Agra district who has lately been dismissed on the charge of tampering with his registers, and

observes that on the occasion of his appeal he told the Commissioner that many other patwaris had committed the same offence. The fact is that bribery and corruption are very prevalent among the lower classes of Government officials in all Departments, and that even some of the higher officials have not clean hands. The payment of bribes by subordinate officials to their superiors in the shape of presents is very common. The higher authorities should be always on the alert and keep an eye on their subordinates, otherwise the people are sure to be ruined.

The same paper, on the authority of a correspondent, complains that a Tahsildar in the Mainpuri The alleged ill-treatment of a Tahsíldár by the Disdistrict has incurred the displeasure of trict Magistrate of Mainthe District Magistrate, who has transpuri. ferred him to another tahsil and has even issued a proclamation expressing his willingness to receive complaints against him. But when no complaints were made on the issue of the proclamation, the Tahsildar's enemies were set to work, and they have succeeded in instigating some men to bring some accusations against him. It is believed that he realized old arrears of revenue, amounting to about Rs. 1,75,000, within He might have exercised some force in realiza few months. ing the arrears, and consequently there can be no difficulty in getting any number of complaints. If the correspondent's version of the story is true, the conduct of the Magistrate is not justifiable.

Circulation, 400 copies.

### LEGISLATION.

Circulation, 415 copies.

The Hindustán (Kálákankar), of the 2nd November, observes that the Morning Post has Comments on the Official lifted the veil from over the close rela-Secrets Act. tions existing between the Pioneer and the Foreign Office. Sir Mortimer Durand himself-corresponds with the Allahabad newspaper and supplies all official information to it at the earliest opportunity. It is a weathercock and changes front with every change in the views of Government, as will be readily seen from the opinions expressed by it from time to time regarding the Civil Service question. The Secretary of State's despatch relating to the report of the Public Service Commission appeared in the Pioneer one day previous to its publication in the Gazette of The question is, how was the Pioneer able to publish India. the despatch before all other newspapers and even before the official Gazette? Government blows hot and cold in the same breath: on the one hand, it has loaded the native press with new chains; while, on the other, the Pioneer and other favourite newspapers are allowed to have free access to the most secret documents of the Secretariats. Such a state of things is simply disgraceful and does not befit a Government which prides itself on its justice and impartiality. The Pioneer has offended against the provisions of the Official Secrets Act during the very week that the Act was passed, by publishing the Secretary of State's despatch in the manner above referred Justice demands that both the Allahabad newspaper and the Government Secretary who supplied it with a copy of the despatch should be dealt with under the provisions of the new Act. It will be remembered that once a foreman in the Government Printing Press at Calcutta was dismissed simply because he had supplied a copy of a supplement of the Government Gazette to the Indian Daily News one day previous to its general distribution. The Pioneer is in the good books of all Government officials. It had better be formally recognised as an official organ. In that case no newspaper would object to the manifestation of special favour to it, and Government would be able to save the cost of the publication of the Gazette of India. Otherwise Government should repeal the new Official Secrets Act, which is a 111

piece of special legislation, and will practically affect only the native newspapers. No native editor has ever supplied plans of fortifications, &c., to foreign powers. If any editor happens to do so, the *Hindustán* will be the first paper to recommend him to be condemned to the gallows. But Government is not justified in harassing newspapers for publishing official documents. The passing of the Act above alluded to reflects no credit on Lord Lansdowne's calmness of mind.

The Hiniustán (Kálákankar), of the 29th October, observes that there was no necessity for the The same. Official Secrets Act, as there is perfect peace at present on the frontier and within the country. The passing of the Act at such a time of peace, owing to the faults of a single newspaper, shows that Lord Lansdowne does not desire the proceedings of Government to be criticized by natives. The way in which His Lordship has passed the Act reminds the public of the passing of the Press Act by Lord Lytton. If the copy of Sir Mortimer Durand's letter which appeared in the Amrita Bazar Pattrika was not quite correct, all that was necessary for Government to do was to publish the true letter. A piece of legislation like the Official Secrets Act is calculated to lead the people to imagine that Government carries on underhand proceedings which it does not like to be made public. But all the proceedings of Government should be, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion.

The Hindustani (Lucknow), of the 27th October, observes that the new Official Secrets Act has The same. been passed with undue haste by Lord Lansdowne's Government, as was the Press Act by Lord Lytton. The meeting of the Legislative Council which passed the Act was held at Simla and was entirely composed of official members. The operation of the Act will not be confined to the supply of plans of fortifications, &c., to foreign powers, as was originally given out, but it will also extend to the publication of what are called confidential There is reason to fear that the Act will not be records. enforced with impartiality, but that it will be used as a means for gagging the native newspapers. If it is intended to be enforced against Anglo-Indian as well as native newespapers,

Circulation, 300 copies.

Sir Mortimer Durand will be the first man who will be handcuffed. He always readily places all information in possession of the Foreign Office at the disposal of the Pioneer. In his speech in the Legislative Council Lord Lansdowne allowed passion to get the better of his reason and made use of expressions which do not suit an official of his high position. He called the Amrita Bazar Pattrika hard names and condemend a portion of Sir Mortimer Durand's note, as published in the Pattrika, as a forgery. His Lordship should have published the authentic note for the satisfaction of the public, but his object in denouncing the note, as published in the Pattrika, is simply to induce the public to attach no importance to it. The Official Secrets Act is based on a wrong principle, and Government will never be able to enforce it with impartiality. If it is intended to gag the native press, Government will not succeed in that object. The native newspapers have a special mission, and no number of Acts can deter them from carrying out that mission. In spite of all hindrances, they will continue to bring the highhanded and illegal proceedings of officials to the notice of the British public.

The Bharat Jiwan (Benares), of the 28th October, is of opinion that Government should not have passed the Act without giving the public an opportunity to express its opinion on it, and that the Viceroy was badly advised in making use of abusive terms in his speech. The Act, if enforced with impartiality, will affect the Pioneer and other Anglo-Indian newspapers to which official information is supplied by the Government Secretaries themselves, more than the native newspapers, and Government will soon find out its mistake.

#### BAILWAYS.

Circulation, 415 copies. The Hindustan (Kalakankar), of the 30th October, referring to the late railway accident at the
mendu on the East Indian Mendu station on the East Indian RailRailway.

way observes that the accident occurred through the carelessness of the driver, who was drunk at
the time. It appears from the statement of a man who was
apassenger in the train which came to grief that 17 women

and 11 men were killed and that about 40 or 50 persons, were wounded. It would be a matter for deep regret if the wounded were not properly treated: and the number of the killed was understated, as is usually done. Such unfortunate accidents are of frequent occurrence owing to the drivers being drunk on duty. Cannot the railway authorities insist on the European drivers being sober on duty or refrain from utilizing their services? The drivers on the Rewari-Firozpur line being natives, not a single accident has occurred on that line during the last six years. Moreover, their maximum pay is only Rs. 25, while the European drivers on the East Indian Railway receive Rs. 150 a month.

The Mihr-i-Nimroz (Bijnor), of the 28th October, complains that the Station Master of

The alleged ill-treament of passengers by the railway employés at the Seohára and Bijnor stations.

plains that the Station Master of Seohára ill-treated a man and that consequently the latter beat him. It would seem that the railway employés

at the Bijnor station are also frequently guilty of misconduct towards passengers.

Circulation, 370 copies.

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